

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 SY-05 SCCT-01 INR-07 INRE-00

FBIE-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 SAJ-01 /069 W

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O R 241600Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3234

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR YO US

SUBJECT: BOMBING OF YUGOSLAV MISSION

REF: A) USUN 3119 B) STATE 147098 C) STATE 146767

1. DEPARTMENT'S FAST ACTION IN REPORTING BOMBING TO US BY OPENING BUSINESS JUNE 23, FOR WHICH EMBASSY MOST GRATEFUL, ENABLED AMBASSADOR TO BREAK NEWS TO FOREIGN SECRETARIAT AND EXPRESS REGRETS OVER INCIDENT BEFORE GOY HAD TIME TO REACT TO NEWS. AMBASSADOR REACHED ASSISTANT SECRETARY MILICEVIC FIRST BY TELEPHONE AND IN ADDITION TO INFORMING HIM ABOUT INCIDENT AND EXPRESSING REGRET EXPRESSED HOPE THAT GUILTY WOULD BE SWIFTLY BROUGHT TO JUSTICE. DEPUTY SECRETARY MOJSOV WAS UNAVAILABLE WHEN AMBASSADOR CALLED AND LATTER WAS ASKED TO CALL BACK. BEFORE HE COULD DO SO, HOWEVER, MOJSOV CALLED AND EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR NEWS AND REGRETS AMBASSADOR HAD CONVEYED. AMBASSADOR CONDEMNED ACT AND SAID HE HOPED GUILTY SOB'S WOULD BE CAUGHT AND PUNISHED TO WHICH MOJSOV LAUGHED WITH DELIGHT.

2. ASSISTANT SECRETARY MILICEVIC CALLED AMBASSADOR IN TODAY TO
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DELIVER DEMARCHE. HE BEGAN BY EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR

AMBASSADOR'S TELEPHONE CALL, THEN STRESSED BOMBING WAS NOT AN ISOLATED CASE BUT PROOF THAT THERE IS NO LET-UP IN TERRORIST ACTIONS AGAINST YUGOSLAV DIPLOMATS. MILICEVIC RECALLED SEVERAL RECENT TERRORISTS' ATTACKS: LAST NOVEMBER A GROUP OF USTASHIS BROKE WINDOWS AND THREATENED PERSONNEL OF UN MISSION; LAST MONTH TWO PERSONS, PROBABLY MEMBERS OF "FASCIST ORGANIZATIONS" AND BEARING WEAPONS, ATTEMPTED TO ENTER MISSION BY FORCE; IN RECENT MONTHS CHIEF AND OTHERS OF MISSION HAVE RECEIVED THREATENING PHONE CALLS; CONSUL GENERAL AND MRS. BULAJIC WERE PHYSICALLY ATTACKED AND ATTACKS OR THREATS WERE MADE ON CONSULS IN CHICAGO AND SAN FRANCISCO; THREATS HAVE APPEARED IN US PRESS AGAINST YUGOSLAV OFFICIALS; AND "FASCISTS" HAVE NOT REFRAINED FROM ATTACKS ON LOYAL US CITIZENS OF YUGOSLAV ORIGIN, FOR EXAMPLE, BADINOVAC. MILICEVIC STATED YUGOSLAV UN MISSION HAS INFORMED COMPETENT US AUTHORITIES ORALLY AND IN WRITING ABOUT NEW YORK INCIDENTS AND RECALLED HIS DEMARCHE TO CHARGE MAY 7 REGARDING BULAJIC INCIDENT (BELGRADE 2229). HE SAID HIS GOVERNMENT FELT THAT LISTS OF SUCH INCIDENTS WAS LONG ENOUGH THAT HE WAS REQUESTED TO LODGE A "VERY SHARP PROTEST" WITH USG.

3. MILICEVIC STATED THAT GOAL OF TERRORIST ACTIONS IS TO HARM GOOD US-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS WHICH HE THOUGHT BOTH GOVERNMENTS WANT TO MAINTAIN. HE REQUESTED USG PROVIDE EFFECTIVE PROTECTION OF LIVES AND PROPERTY OF ALL YUGOSLAVS IN US. WHILE NECESSARY, HE STATED THAT PROVISION OF PROTECTION IS NOT BEST WAY TO ACHIEVE END, SUGGESTING THAT ORGANIZATIONS RESPONSIBLE ARE WELL KNOWN AND PERHAPS STATE DEPARTMENT COULD ISSUE PUBLIC STATEMENT CONDEMNING ACTS AND EXPRESSING RESOLUTENESS OF AUTHORITIES TO PREVENT RECURRENCE. HE EXPLAINED THERE HAVE BEEN SO MANY INCIDENTS WHICH HAD NOT BEEN FOLLOWED BY EFFECTIVE MEASURES THAT TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS WERE ENCOURAGED TO CONTINUE. USG SHOULD LET THEM KNOW IT HAS DECIDED TO STOP SUCH ACTIVITY. HE CONCLUDED BY ASKING AMBASSADOR TO INFORM WASHINGTON OF PROTEST.

4. AMBASSADOR AGREED TO REPORT PROTEST IMMEDIATELY AND NOTED ONE OF MILICEVIC'S REQUESTS HAD ALREADY BEEN FULFILLED. DEPARTMENT'S STATEMENT HAD CONDEMNED ATTACK AND INDICATED AUTHORITIES ARE VIGOROUSLY PURSUING ITS PERPETRATORS. AMBASSADOR ALSO NOTED THAT DUTY POLICEMAN FORMERLY NEAR YUGOSLAV MISSION HAS BEEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STATIONED IN FRONT OF IT. HE SAID USG CONSIDERS BOMBING AS DESPICABLE CONDUCT. FBI AND NYPD ARE PURSUING CASE ZEALOUSLY. HE REQUESTED FULL COOPERATION OF YUGOSLAV MISSION TO PERMIT YUGOSLAV DIPLOMATS TO TESTIFY AGAINST ACCUSED IN COURT WHEN NECESSARY IN ORDER TO GET CONVICTION, ADDING THAT ALTHOUGH THIS MAY NOT BE PROBLEM IN BOMBING CASE, HE KNEW IT HAD BEEN IN PAST CASES. AMBASSADOR CONCLUDED WITH EXPRESSION OF DEEPEST REGRET OVER BOMBING.

5. MILICEVIC STATED YUGOSLAVS ARE PREPARED TO ASSIST US IN ACCORDANCE WITH YUGOSLAV LAW. THEY, HOWEVER, REGARD ISSUE NOT SO MUCH LEGAL AS POLITICAL. HE SAID THAT US AUTHORITIES KNOW REASONS AND PEOPLE BEHIND ATTACKS ON YUGOSLAV LIVES AND PROPERTY. IF THEY ARE WILLING TO TAKE EFFECTIVE MEASURES THEY ARE IN POSITION TO DO SOMETHING. MILICEVIC STATED IT IS IMPORTANT TO PREVENT ATTACKS WHILE THEY ARE BEING PLANNED AND PREPARED. ACTION CAN BE TAKEN AGAINST THE ORGANIZATIONS RESPONSIBLE FOR TERRORISM, IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO SINGLE OUT ONLY THE GUILTY INDIVIDUALS. HE STATED THAT RECEIVING STATE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROTECTING DIPLOMATS AND IT IS UP TO USG TO FIND A WAY TO PROVIDE SECURITY FOR YUGOSLAVS. BOMBING OF MISSION IS MOST SERIOUS CASE IN RECENT YEARS. GOY CANNOT NOW BE SATISFIED WITH USG PROMISES SINCE ATTACKS HAVE RECURRED. USG MUST DECIDE WHAT TO DO. GOY'S WISH IS THAT SOMETHING EFFECTIVE BE DONE TO AVOID NEGATIVE EFFECT ON RELATIONS. IF IT IS NOT, THEN GOY CAN ONLY ASSUME THAT THERE IS LACK OF WILL.

6. THE AMBASSADOR STRONGLY DISAGREED WITH MILICEVIC THAT THERE WAS ANY QUESTION OF USG POLICY TOWARDS TERRORISTS ACTS, SAYING THERE IS NO LACK OF CONCERN ON GOVERNMENT PART BUT THERE ARE CERTAIN RESTRAINTS ON POLICE ACTIONS WHICH DO NOT EXIST IN OTHER COUNTRIES. IN US SYSTEM ACTION CANNOT BE TAKEN AGAINST GROUPS WHICH ARE NOT ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN CRIMINAL ACTIVITY, BUT EVIDENCE MUST BE OBTAINED AGAINST GUILTY TO CONVICT. POLICE CANNOT FOR EXAMPLE PROCEED AGAINST PEOPLE WHO ARE SYMPATHETIC WITH THOSE WHO PLANTED BOMB IF THEY ARE NOT PROVEN TO BE ACTIVELY INVOLVED. AMBASSADOR SAID HE COULD GUARANTEE USG IS DETERMINED TO FIND GUILTY AND DETER ATTACK ON YUGOSLAV MISSIONS BUT NO ACTION COULD BE TAKEN OUTSIDE OUR JUDICIAL SYSTEM. AMBASSADOR REPEATED STATEMENT HE HAD MADE TO MOJISOV THAT HE HOPED GUILTY SOB'S WOULD BE FOUND AND CONVICTED TO WHICH MILICEVIC CHUCKLED.

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WHEN AMBASSADOR GOT UP TO LEAVE MILICEVIC STATED HE WAS SURE EFFECTIVE WAY COULD BE FOUND TO STOP ATTACKS.

7. COMMENT: DESPITE FIRM WORDS, MILICEVIC'S TONE THROUGHOUT EXCHANGE WAS POLITE. AMBASSADOR'S TELEPHONE CALLS HAD CLEARLY TAKEN SOME OF STING FROM DEMARCHE. INCIDENT WAS REPORTED WITHOUT FANFARE INSIDE PAGES OF DAILY PRESS INCLUDING OFFICIAL STATEMENT BY SPOKESMAN.
SILBERMAN

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